

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05815 191230Z

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8275

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MNMC
SUBJECT: GREEK-PORTUGUESE ATTENDANCE AT NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM MCAULIFFE

REF: STATE 228686 AND PREVIOUS

1. SYG LUNS AND ALLIES ARE WAITING FOR SOME SIGNAL FROM US ON QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE AND GREEK ATTENDANCE AT NPG MINISTERIAL IN ROME ON NOV 7 AND 8. ITALIANS, THROUGH CATALANO, ARE PRESSING HARDEST FOR SOME INDICATOR, SINCE THEY AS HOST GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS; AND, AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, THEY ARE SKITTISH BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT ELEVENTH HOUR DECISION TO EXCLUDE PORTUGUESE AND/OR GREEKS MIGHT REKINDLE PUBLIC DEBATE WHICH MIGHT IMPINGE IN SOME WAY ON THEIR OWN FRAGILE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. MY LATEST SOUNDINGS WITH LUNS AND KEY ALLIES (FRG, UK, BELGIANS, DUTCH) WOULD INDICATE THAT ON BALANCE THEY CAN GO ALONG ON THIS OCCASION REPEAT ON THIS OCCASION WITH NPG MINISTERIAL THAT IS WATERED DOWN IN SUBSTANCE FOR SECURITY REASONS. THEY HAVE BEEN HEWING QUITE WELL TO US LINE THAT NATO AND ALLIES SHOULD MAINTAIN NORMAL ROUTINE RELATIONS WITH ATHENS AWAITING OUTCOME GREEK ELECTIONS AND FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARD RESOLUTION CYPRUS SITUATION; AND THEY TAKE COMFORT FROM FACT THAT GREECE WILL BE REPRESENTED AT NPG BY AMBASSADOR THEODORAPOULOS, WHO HAS ALREADY MADE POSITIVE AND SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 05815 191230Z

FAVORABLE IMPRESSION AT EVERE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL, HEY ARE CONFUSED, APPREHENSIVE AND INADEQUATELY INFORMED. IT IS TRUE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED

TO SEE PORTUGAL REPRESENTED AT ROME NPG BY AMBASSADOR DE FREITAS
CRUZ WHOM THEY KNOW SLIGHTLY, RATHER THAN BY A PORTUGUESE ADMIRAL
WHO IS AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY. BUT THOSE WITH WHOM I HAVE
SPOKEN -- WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF LUNS HIMSELF -- SEEM
PREPARED TO GO TO SOME LENGTHS TO AVOID ANY POLITICAL CONFRONTATION
WITH PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME LEAST WE AND THEY TRIGGER FROM LISBON
A WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT LIKE THE ONE FROM KARAMANLIS. THE ALLIES
WISH TO DO NOTHING THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE AZORES BASE; THEY ASSUME
THAT US DECISION WILL HINGE ON OUTCOME OF TALKS IN US WITH COSTA
GOMES AND DOARES; AND THEY HOPE --PERHAPS WISHFULLY -- FOR ELECTIONS
IN PORTUGAL EARLY IN 1975 THAT WILL CLARIFY SITUATION APPRECIABLY.

4. I HOPE THIS MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU.
MCAULIFFE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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